

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., June 11, 1891.

The Superintendent, U. S. Mint,

Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Colonel:

I would suggest the advisability of having our force of mint experts in the engraving department prepare, under your supervision, suitable designs for the half-dollar, quarter-dollar and dime. These designs can be prepared first in the form of sketches and afterwards in the form of models, or in the form of models in plaster in the first instance if you think ~~it~~ best.

My idea of the face of the coin is that it should be a Liberty Head, somewhat like that on the five-franc piece of France, which is a typical Liberty Head. Of course it would not be necessary to make an exact copy of that head, but I prefer that to anything I have seen.

For the reverse I have no objection to the present eagle. At any rate, I wish the shield on its breast, or in its talons, preserved.

I submit the matter to you for consideration and for conference with the engraver, and I think it would reflect credit upon our service if we were to show the public that we have sufficient talent in our own service to prepare suitable designs for our coins when the great public have failed to do so.

You will please understand that the coins which at present I desire to change are the half-dollar, quarter-dollar and dime.

I have no special objection to the present reverse of the half-dollar, quarter-dollar, and especially the reverse of the dime, which I consider very pretty as it is.

The reverse of the half-dollar and quarter-dollar might be improved slightly without any material change in the eagle.

Whatever is prepared at your mint I will submit to the Secretary for his consideration.

Very respectfully,


Director.

1535 1/2

Treasury Dept.
Washington, D.C.
June 11, 1891

E. O. Leech
Director.

Relative to preparing
new designs for
the half dollar
quarter & dime



[Faint, illegible handwritten notes or signatures]

[Abstract:] Relative to preparing new designs for the half-dollar quarter & dime.

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